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Preparatory Committee
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Geneva, 14-15 July 2014
Item 6 of the provisional agenda
Considerations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

Outcome of Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13-16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria

Note by the secretariat*

A. Declaration from the Third African Ministerial Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/209 of December 2012, the Assembly, in looking forward to regional platforms scheduled in 2014, stressed the importance of regional coordination in the framework of the preparatory process for the Third World Conference.

2. The Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held from 13 to 16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria. A declaration was produced by the Third African Ministerial Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction that was held within the framework of the Fifth Africa Regional Platform Outcomes, which read:

"Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13-16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria

"Declaration from the Third African Ministerial Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction

"Preamble

"The Third African Ministerial Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction was held within the framework of the Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction from 13

* This document was submitted late due to the need for internal consultations.

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to 16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria. The Ministerial meeting was held at a time when the world was expressing its deep solidarity with the families of the abducted schoolgirls and the people of Nigeria and calling for the abducted schoolgirls to be brought back to their families. This meeting joined the global call for solidarity and compassion with the people of Nigeria.

"The meeting was hosted and chaired by the Federal Republic of Nigeria and convened by the African Union Commission with support from the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). The host organisations recognise the kind support provided by partner organisations .

"Over 900 participants from African governments, Regional Economic Communities, development partners including donors, United Nations, Non-Governmental Organisations, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, academic, scientific and technological institutions, and other international organisations, came together with mayors and local governments, parliamentarians, community practitioners, persons with disabilities, youth, women's groups, private sector, and media actively deliberated on Africa's contribution to the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

"Declaration

"We the African Ministers and Heads of Delegations, present at the Ministerial Meeting 16 May 2014:

"I. Take note of the consultations on Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction conducted at national, sub-regional and continental level, outcomes of the 4th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (13-15 February 2013, Arusha, Tanzania), Africa Position presented by the African Union at the 4th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (19 – 23 May 2013, Geneva, Switzerland), Consultative Meeting on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (25 – 26 November 2013, Nairobi, Kenya) and consequent summary statement.

"II. Further take note of the Summary Statement of the Africa Working Group (Extended) meeting (11-12 March 2014, Abuja, Nigeria) that includes recommendations for Africa's Contribution to the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – as the basis for discussion at the 5th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13-16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria.

"III. Recall global and regional frameworks on disaster risk reduction, particularly the Africa Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction (2004) and Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and acknowledge the achievements and gaps therein.

"IV. Further recall the Declaration of the 2nd African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14 to 16 April 2010 that adopted the Extended Programme of Action (2006 – 2015) and stress the need for continuation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action as valid frameworks for disaster risk reduction with the need to reinforce their implementation.

"V. Take cognizance of the report of the 5th Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 15 – 18 October 2013 that refers to disaster risk reduction in context of sustainable development.

"VI. Acknowledge the continued efforts of African countries, especially the contribution of Regional Economic Communities, local governments, community practitioners and civil society, on disaster risk reduction and its integration with climate change adaptation for sustainable development and enhanced resilience.

"VII. Further acknowledge ongoing efforts at regional and national levels to enhance resilience of nations and communities against disasters, including the Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative in the IGAD region and Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) in the Sahel and west Africa region and applaud the collaboration between IGAD and Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS) as an exemplary South-South Cooperation.

"VIII. Appreciate the role of regional platforms on disaster risk reduction as an effective coordination forum that brings governments, inter-governmental organisations and stakeholders together and call for its continuity on a regular basis.

"IX. Express deep concern at the magnitude and intensity of disasters, aggravated by terrorism and armed conflicts, and their increasing impact in recent years in Africa, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic, environmental and humanitarian consequences for vulnerable societies which hamper the achievement of sustainable development.

"X. Advocate for the inclusion of additional elements to take into account emerging risks and their prevention through anticipatory risk management for risk-sensitive development.

"XI. Recognise disaster risk reduction as an effective means to achieve resilience through prevention, mitigation and preparedness to enable nations and communities absorb loss and damage, minimise impacts and bounce forward.

"*Hereby:*

"1. Adopt the Summary Statement on Africa's Contribution to the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Stakeholder Voluntary Commitments.

"2. Express commitment of our governments to the African position on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

"3. Urge the African Union Commission to submit this Declaration to the African Union Summit for endorsement.

"4. Further express commitment to promoting a coordinated and mutually reinforcing approach to the three international agreements in 2015 – the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the sustainable development goals and the climate change agreements.

"5. Further urge the African Union Commission and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, as the Secretariat of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (14 – 18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan), to ensure incorporation of Africa's contribution into the global Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, following the formal process adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, through Resolution A/RES/68/211 on 20 December 2013.

"6. Call upon national and local governments and community practitioners, parliamentarians and regional economic communities, under the auspices of the African Union Commission, to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the Declaration and constituent elements.

"7. Further call upon UNISDR to continue providing its institutional support for regional coordination and monitoring of disaster risk reduction implementation under the leadership of the African Union Commission and in cooperation with Regional Economic Communities.

"8. Encourage development partners including donors, United Nations, Non-Governmental Organisations, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, academic, scientific and technological institutions, and other international organisations, community practitioners, persons with disabilities, youth, women's groups, private sector, and media to enhance and strengthen their active and joint collaboration with governments, parliamentarians and Regional Economic Communities for implementation of the recommendations.

"Done on this 16th day of May 2014 at Abuja, Nigeria

"[Translated in French wherein English text is the original version]"

B. Summary statement: Africa's contribution to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

3. Also at the Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, a summary statement on Africa's contribution to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction was produced, which read:

"*Summary statement: Africa's contribution to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction*

"[Translated in French wherein English text is the original version]

"Over 900 participants from 44 countries and partners gathered in Abuja, Nigeria, 13-16 May 2014 for the 5th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Stakeholders from governments, Regional Economic Communities, development partners including donors, United Nations, Non Governmental Organisations, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, academic, scientific and technological institutions, and other international organisations, came together with mayors and local governments, parliamentarians, community practitioners, persons with disabilities, youth, women's groups, private sector, and media to review the progress of disaster risk reduction in Africa and consolidate Africa's Contribution to a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

"The Platform was convened by the African Union Commission and hosted by the Federal Republic of Nigeria, with support from Economic Community for West African States Commission and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and other partners . The recommendations are summarised below:

"*A. Regional Risk Factors and Institutional Frameworks*

"Most disasters in Africa are hydro-meteorological. Drought, in particular, is recognized as a regional priority, along with chronic vulnerabilities and food insecurity. The impact of small-scale- recurrent hazards continue to have a significant impact on sustainable development and call for greater attention in national and regional efforts to reduce disaster risk. Recognizing regional variability in hazard profiles, the particular vulnerabilities of island states need to be reflected in regional strategies and action. Rapid urbanization, vulnerable infrastructure, land and environmental degradation and, extreme poverty, food insecurity and disease continue to drive risk and undermine resilience.

Violent conflict is closely associated with disaster risk and related efforts to prevent conflict need to be considered as part of overall efforts to build resilience to disasters.

"1. Policy and appropriate legislation, including regulatory frameworks, have played a significant role in addressing disaster risks in many African countries; these processes should be enhanced, including through parliamentary forums at regional and national levels, and backed by strengthened institutional capacity to enforce legislation.

"2. The inclusion of disaster risk reduction into municipal and decentralized policies will further enable the reduction of risk. Decentralisation should be complemented by increased accountability and transparency in implementing disaster risk reduction through allocation of responsibilities and resources at all administrative levels.

"3. Public participation in policy development will better ensure that particular vulnerabilities of children, youth, women, elderly, and persons with disabilities, among others, are addressed and will help to ensure that the leadership and capacities of these groups are fully enlisted in efforts to build resilience.

"4. Multi-sector and multi-hazard programme investment frameworks, with clear budget will help in translating policies into actionable programmes, particularly when attention is given to capacity building and capacity retention at all levels - policy-makers to community practitioners.

"5. Strengthened national and local platforms can enhance risk governance and improve policy, planning and financing. Efforts to accelerate inclusivity in these platforms, through institutionally linking organised stakeholder forums (e.g. parliamentarian caucuses, community practitioners' platforms, youth and women networks), can facilitate learning, coordinated action and the impact of national and local platforms.

"6. Efforts to engage Heads of States and governments through the African Union provide further means of consolidating political leadership at the highest level for coordination of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and for ensuring the establishment and strengthening of national and local platforms.

"7. Disasters are not constrained by administrative boundaries and require trans-boundary policies and programmes. Population movements induced by disasters (fast- and slow-onset) and long-term violent conflicts call for cross-border cooperation. The development and enhancement of sub-regional climate information and multi-hazard early warning systems can inform, and thereby improve, prevention, preparedness and early action and response.

"8. Integrated and coordinated approaches to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and related aspects of conflict prevention can reduce the fragmentation of resources and improve the impact of investments.

"9. Systematic support to the expansion and resourcing of existing networks of academic and training institutions can help to build and strengthen human capacity, for example, through consortia and partnerships.

"10. The establishment of regional mechanisms that enable more active engagement of a wider range of science partners (including health and agriculture) can support broader efforts to establish an international science advisory panel for disaster risk reduction and to bring scientific, local and indigenous knowledge within a common framework of understanding.

"11. Mainstream gender into all disaster risk reduction plans, prevention and preparedness programmes, monitoring and reporting mechanisms should be enhanced for the purpose of building resilience.

"12. The role of women, especially organised groups of slum-dwellers and rural women, should be recognised through inviting their involvement in decision-making, policy and programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation towards the goal of gender equity and women's empowerment.

"13. Africa has a significantly large and vibrant young population. Given this, and its high socio-economic vulnerabilities to the impacts of disasters, children and youth must be meaningfully involved in future disaster risk reduction planning and implementation. Failure to do so can risk the sustainability of current risk reduction investments. Youth should be empowered with specific skills that will enable them to better apply their creativity and innovation in reducing disaster risk.

"14. Locally elected representatives provide a direct and immediate link to local communities and are on the front line of efforts to reduce disaster risks. Efforts to engage locally elected officials in national planning for disaster risk reduction need to be accelerated.

"15. Media should be recognized as an integral part of disaster risk reduction processes and should assume responsibility for fair and accurate reporting on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

"16. Public reporting mechanisms should be put in place for sub-national, urban, and community level disaster risk reduction programmes (e.g. parliamentary reporting, open-information websites and community meetings). These may be linked to national monitoring and reporting mechanisms and further supported through mobilizing media networks. Open crowd-sourcing technologies and improved monitoring of risks at community level promise additional support to accountability. Similarly, funding mechanisms should be designed so as to facilitate transparency and accountability.

"17. Efforts to address the relationship between poverty and corruption should be seen as a valuable asset in efforts to promote resilience to disasters.

"*B. Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation*

"The year 2015 will be marked by three landmark agreements – a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (March 2015), sustainable development goals (September 2015) and climate change agreements through the UNFCCC (December 2015). Efforts to ensure that these international agreements are coherent and mutually reinforcing will contribute to multiple benefits at the national and local levels. The combined impact of climate variability and climate change gives new impetus to efforts to address the underlying causes of risk (HFA Priority for Action 4) and the commitments to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions create new opportunities for investing in resilience.

"18. Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction integration form the building blocks for current and future risk prevention, leading to resilience.

"19. Coordination needs to be increased at the institutional level between the disaster risk reduction and climate change communities, including through developing synergies between relevant frameworks and conventions at global level. Common platforms for resilience have been proposed as a practical next step. The post-2015 development framework provides an important vehicle for this integration because this approach needs to be introduced into the delivery of basic social services including education, health and water (among others).

"20. Roles and responsibilities (for instance, of national agencies for disaster management, monitoring hazards and issuing warnings) need to be clarified through policies, legislation, and institutional coordination mechanisms. More systematic linkages

should be established between technical agencies (such as meteorological, hydrological and climate services) and disaster risk management agencies. Climate information and early warning should be tailored to and accessible by different sectors and community-level actors. Related communications systems and channels should be strengthened with the goal of using information for early action.

"21. Availability and access to information on risks, losses and damages associated with climate-related hazards and disasters should be enhanced for national, local and sector development planning. This requires that adequate information is enhanced, available and communicated in local languages and in formats that take the special needs of persons with disabilities into account.

"22. Ecosystem based approaches and related efforts to reverse environment and land degradation should be reinforced as a means to manage disaster risks and deliver multiple socio-economic benefits. These call for long term approaches to sustain healthy ecosystems. River basin organizations should be recognized as playing a key role and efforts should be made to leverage existing AU mechanisms in this regard. Monitoring environmental compliance and the enforcement of multi-lateral environmental agreements in government plans support these efforts.

"23. Recognizing the impact of climate change on urban areas, enhanced efforts to address urban risks is a priority for Africa. Knowledge in this area should be expanded as a means of catalysing effective action, in partnership with urban communities. Disaster-sensitive physical planning (including through the use of tools such as resilience profiling), enforcement of building codes and investments in resilient urban infrastructure can be applied to prevent the accumulation of further risks. Technical capacities of city managers and practitioners can be enhanced through, city-to-city exchanges, civil society, technical centres and institutes, academia and the engagement of national expertise.

"24. Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation should be integrated in education systems, including curricula (at all levels) and comprehensive school safety frameworks to ensure uninterrupted safe education.

"25. Community education and awareness, including through informal education, on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation will be improved through coordinating the efforts of government authorities, civil society and the general public. Media embraces a broad range of communication tools and represents an underutilized resource that could support new approaches to building resilience in Africa.

"26. Greater attention should be given to Higher Education Institutions which constitute key resources for strengthening disaster risk-related science, technology and increasingly play crucial roles in advancing relevant risk knowledge, research and skilled capacity in the management of current and future risks.

"27. Health is an imperative for disaster risk reduction and community resilience. Health status and targets should be among indicators for monitoring and reporting on disaster risk reduction achievements.

"28. Ensure that gains from recovery are translated into resilience through developing financial protection strategies for governments to respond quickly after disasters and developing resilient recovery plans that address issues such as disaster waste management and investments in resilient infrastructure, among others.

"29. A people-centred approach to disaster risk reduction is essential for building resilience. Institutionalize linkages between community-based disaster risk reduction, national and sub-national policies and action.

"*C. Investments in Disaster Risk Reduction*

"Rapid economic growth in Africa provides opportunities for increasing investment in disaster risk reduction but also poses challenges.

"30. Comprehensive risk profiles create an enabling investment environment for disaster risk reduction and can encourage the wider use of comprehensive risk assessments to inform public and private sector investment decisions and to target disaster risk reduction funding and financing.

"31. There is a need for strengthening technical capacities of institutions responsible for monitoring and analysing hazard, exposure, and vulnerability components of risk. National and regional policies and strategies include risk assessments that facilitate the targeting of interventions to support, for instance, children's protection and the vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities. Funding mechanisms need to be aligned to support the development of disaster and climate-related information.

"32. New forums and platforms can be established by the private sector to strengthen coordination and galvanize disaster risk reduction actions, these could recognize the role that small and medium enterprises play in prevention efforts. Public policies based on sound business models can further encourage private sector investment in disaster risk reduction.

"33. Public-Private Partnerships for disaster risk reduction should be enhanced to promote resilient investments, increase job opportunities at the community level, enhance accountability for private sector and ensure the relevance of private sector investment to benefit vulnerable communities while preventing future risks.

"34. Financial commitment and investment strategies should be developed and national governments should allocate adequate resources for scalable and flexible adaptive basic social services and social protection systems, including safety nets, and ensure funding opportunities are available to communities for food security and resilience building.

"35. Regional initiatives, such as the African Risk Capacity, a specialized entity of the AU, present important opportunities to protect food security of vulnerable populations.

"*D. Duration of Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*

"The post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction should have duration similar to that of the Hyogo Framework for Action –at least ten years in order to ensure appropriate results-based monitoring mechanisms for the new framework.

"*E. Enhancing Commitments*

"Delegates recommended making the post-2015 framework more action oriented, taking into consideration the priority areas of HFA, and generating commitments from all actors and stakeholders by undertaking the following:

"36. Implement disaster risk reduction in line with rights-based approaches to generate a high level of institutional accountability.

"37. Strengthening awareness and knowledge at all levels for all stakeholders is a key to generating the right commitment for implementation. This should include a focus on capacity building at all levels to foster communities of disaster risk reduction practitioners.

"38. Allocating a proportion of public budgets for disaster risk reduction, with greater investment in disaster mitigation, preparedness and response, informed by economic

analyses and risk assessments. These should be supported by financial commitment strategies and technical guidelines to integrate risk reduction into public investment.

"39. Institutionalize engagement and involvement with civil society, recognizing the various strengths of national, international and community-led organizations and the range of capacities these organizations offer in terms of policy and advocacy, action research, capacity building, networking and mobilizing commitment, among others.

"40. Launch advocacy efforts to mark the shift from 'awareness' to 'how-to-do-it' (e.g. implementation of 10 essentials for making cities resilient) including through support of specialized dedicated technical assistance provided by national governments and partners.

"41. Establish clear accountability mechanisms with monitoring and reporting of progress to help generate commitment for implementation. Annual reporting could help to overcome the delays encountered in implementing the HFA. Reporting mechanisms for government investments in disaster risk reduction should be strengthened, including capacities to monitor data and information on hazards and sectorial loss and damage.

"42. The United Nations System should build upon the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience as an effective tool for coordination. UNISDR should continue providing support to the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities for strengthened policy advocacy, coordination and more effective monitoring and evaluation.

"End."